



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

May / June 2021

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

From the Pastor **Philosopher Kings**

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff

Some of you may remember that, back in January of this year, I requested that members of the congregation send me your life philosophies. Whether it was philosophies you learned from your career, your family, or your life experiences, I wanted to know the ideas that had a big impact on the direction of your life. Originally, I was going to combine your philosophies with those of other great thinkers, but I received so many thoughtful responses that were so varied in their perspectives, I was able to create an entire series out of those ideas.



Therefore, over the spring and summer, we are going to be doing a sermon series called Philosopher Kings. The term Philosopher Kings comes from the famous philosopher Plato who said, “There will be no end to the troubles of states, or of humanity itself, until philosophers become kings in this

world, or until those we now call kings and rulers really and truly become philosophers, and political power and philosophy thus come into the same hands.” The idea is that those who contemplate, value, and live by philosophy are the most qualified leaders in this world.

I know this might sound kind of elitist, but it all depends on how you define who is and who is not a philosopher. The truth is that everyone lives according to a specific philosophy of life. Everyone lives according to values and ethics that drive their thinking and their actions. That said, don't let my description fool you. Some people, when they hear the words values and ethics, automatically assume we're talking about good values and good ethics. But that's not necessarily true.

Joseph Stalin had values and ethics. They were brutal: Don't trust anyone; preserve your power at all costs; the ends always justify the means. This life philosophy resulted in the deaths of more than 50 million people, making Stalin

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Moving Forward on Our Capital Campaign

Kris Ford, For the Capital Campaign Committee

Defining our Decade

Build. Serve. Transform.

Defining Our Decade. Build. Serve. Transform. We have such an interesting building! I have fond memories of growing up in our church. I remember going to Sunday school in Fellowship Hall before the CE Wing was even a thought. I remember going to choir practice in the Chapel and waiting on the steps for my mom to pick me up afterwards. I remember communicants class in the brand new CE Wing. We had fun weaving through the building, up and down back stairs, through narrow hallways.

You know what? Not much has changed. Sure, Fellowship Hall has been cleaned up, the pews are gone from the



Chapel, but the CE Wing was built for the ages. I do know that guiding my mother from the Sanctuary to the Chapel, just a couple of years ago, was a challenge—not fun at all.

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Philosopher Kings *continued from page 1*

the single deadliest man in the history of the world. Hence, our values and ethics do not always lead to good outcomes.

The point is that everyone has a life philosophy. The problem is most people are unaware of what life philosophy they've bought into. They've never taken the time to sit down and examine what their life philosophy really means. It is mostly unconscious. They couldn't necessarily tell you why they made certain decisions or acted in certain ways. All they know is, their thoughts and decisions make sense to them in the moment.

Now this is the exact opposite of what a philosopher does. A philosopher is someone who spends a lot of time contemplating the whys of life. They want to understand why do I think a certain way? What are my assumptions? Does my thinking have flaws? What are the unintended consequences of my thinking? How does my thinking impact other people? Who will it help? Who will it harm? And

Capital Campaign *continued from page 1*

When the Stewardship Committee hosted the Senior Luncheon in Fellowship Hall, she couldn't attend. Making the trip down the stairs or waiting in line for the single chair lift was just a bit past her ability. Imagine being in a wheelchair, or having leg braces, or recovering from surgery, or having a baby in a stroller. Not everyone would find weaving through our building as much fun as I did so many years ago.

Session has long considered changes to our building, spurred primarily by the need to make our entire building accessible to everyone. In 2019, Session approved the creation of a Building Committee to explore changes that would allow accessibility throughout the entire facility as well as serious upgrades to Fellowship Hall, the Chapel, the Gym and the CE Wing. Session then formed the Capital Campaign Committee to raise the funds for this major building project.

The original goal was to launch the campaign in the fall of 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic ultimately pushed that timeline back, and here we are. The Capital Campaign Committee has been meeting throughout the pandemic and we decided that we would break our campaign into two phases. Phase 1 is a smaller project, focused entirely on ADA enhancements in the Memorial Prayer Garden hallway. Phase 2 will be the bigger renovation to deal with upgrades to Fellowship Hall, the CE Wing, and the Gym.

perhaps, most importantly, does my thinking result in action or are my actions distinctly separate from my thinking?

Therefore, what Plato is trying to convey through his quote is that those who have spent the time reflecting on how they navigate life are those worth following. This is not just true of trained philosophers, but of average ordinary people. This sermon series examines the life philosophy of members from our congregation.

Every sermon will begin with a life philosophy from one or more of our members. Then we will take these ideas and talk about the biblical scriptures that reflect on that philosophy. The goal of this series is to demonstrate that everyone has something to teach us about life, faith, love, and our relationship with God. I think it's going to be a great spring and summer! 🕊

During the month of April, we are focusing on raising money for Phase 1. Since we are not utilizing our building's full capacity, this is the right time to initiate the first phase of our campaign. Our plan is to install a wheelchair lift in the Memorial Prayer Garden hallway making Fellowship Hall and the Chapel accessible to everyone. Our committee is reaching out to you to join us in raising the \$400,000 to complete this much needed upgrade.

By now, you should have received a letter and a brochure with more details. On the back of the brochure is a card you can hand in to the church office indicating the amount of your contribution to this project or you can go online to www.firstpresah.org/definingourdecade/.

Please note, we need your commitment by April 30, 2021, and your contribution paid in full by September 30, 2021. We hope this addition will be completed by the fall of 2021. Let's move forward now toward our larger goal to improve our building by beginning with the simple, welcoming act of providing access to all. 🕊



Mythology in the Modern World

by Adam Hendrickson, Director of Music

Isn't it fascinating, the way our modern day culture has seemingly taken the word "myth" so far out of context from "mythology"? Today, a myth related to a topic implies falseness, but mythology is not the study of falseness. Quite the contrary! I conducted a little experiment to test this idea a couple months ago with the WMS Committee, here at First Pres. I mentioned I was developing a class about mythology, and I wanted to share a couple of working titles. The first was Christianity and Mythology. That was met with faces of piqued curiosity. Then I shared my other working title, The Christian Myth. That one did not go over so well. Thankfully, all of this was by design. My little experiment worked.

It may seem strange to think about, but the effects of mythology are all around you, all the time. Much like the tiny microbes we cannot see, mythology is constantly shaping us and our society in a largely unseen fashion. This

Organ Upgrade

Well, it finally happened. Chris Urban took the organ home with him. Just kidding! The organ is getting an upgrade. More on that in a bit. We thought you might like to see the improvements that have been made to our Chancel area in the Sanctuary. Baptisms, weddings, funerals, recitals, concerts, communion, and special services like the Christmas Pageant will now benefit from a bit of added height, as well as an overall improvement, visually. On a personal note, Chris and I are most excited about the acoustical improvements that have been made to the area. For the first time in decades, the women in the choir will not be singing on carpet! With both the men and women singing on solid surfaces, the sound will blend more naturally.

As mentioned earlier, the organ is getting an upgrade. It will now be able to relocate to any position within the tiled Chancel area. This provides incredible benefits for recitals and concerts, but it also gives more flexibility to the organist and choir for a multitude of seating arrangements. We cannot wait for you to see and hear how this will enhance our worship services and beyond. 🎵

Top: The new tile in the Chancel. Better sound and visibility.

Bottom: Removing the organ from "the pit" for refurbishing and upgrading the wiring, which will make it mobile.

class is designed as a call to awaken your mythological senses so you might have an active participation with mythology at play. To see the psychological underpinnings of history and history in the making.

This class will be heavily influenced by the lectures of Joseph Campbell. Joseph Campbell was an American professor of literature who wrote many books about comparative mythology. I have mentioned him a few times in my devotionals over the last year. He is most famously known for his book, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, as well as coining the phrase, "follow your bliss". What a joy it was for me, as an adult, to realize that he played a large role in George Lucas's inspiration for *Star Wars*, as well.

Details of time and location to come, but join me on Wednesdays, June 2 through July 7, and find out what Aslan, Superman, Neo, Harry Potter, Gandalf, E.T., The Doctor (from *Doctor Who*), and Eleven (from *Stranger Things*) all have in common, and why it is so important to update one's mythology over time. 🎵



Children's Ministries

By Katy Allen, Director of Children's Ministries

WE GOT CRAFTY!

It's hard to beat the fun and fellowship that comes with making crafts with kids! For four Sundays in March, kids were invited to attend small group craft sessions in the Narthex with Children's Ministries volunteers. Each craft was designed to spark creativity and originality, and encourage individual expression. We created abstract art by using acrylic paints on wooden hearts after first practicing this new skill on paper. Next, we created outer space wreaths and enjoyed both tempera paint and watercolors. It was fun designing our own planets and placing them on our wreaths. Our mixed media collage project utilized a variety of supplies to create a bird. Each one was beautiful and unique. Finally, we made pinch pots from modeling clay, and added dried flowers and greens to the bottom for a beautiful flourish of color. Special thanks to our volunteers, Ellen, Amy, Michele, Sarah, and Dan for helping with our craft sessions.

OUR JOURNEY

Our kindergarteners – 5th graders have been on quite a Sunday school journey this year! We all had to get used to connecting with each other online, but it didn't take any of us long to get the hang of it! We started each Sunday with an enthusiastic welcome that always elicited bright eyes and big smiles, followed by our "prayers and shares", a special time for the kids to share things from their lives or offer a prayer concern. After a fun opening activity, we would dive right into our journey with Jesus and so many wonderful stories from the Bible. A highlight of each lesson was the discussion questions, which always lent themselves to thoughtful answers. We wrapped up our time together with a closing activity and a hearty goodbye until next time.

We learned about ourselves, each other, and Jesus this year in lots of different ways. We learned that we're still a church family whether or not we're in each other's physical company. We learned that we can try (and like) new things, even if it seems strange at first. And we learned – again and again – that Jesus loves us and will always be a source of comfort and security for us. As this year's Sunday school journey comes to a close in early May, we will remember these days for what they were – a time of church family ties, fellowship, and a whole lot of grace!

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nothing was getting in the way of our 3- and 4-year-olds getting together for preschool Sunday school this year! Though they're small, they're a mighty bunch – full of

energy and enthusiasm! And being online didn't dampen their spirits one bit! Children's Ministries would like to offer a special thanks to Michele Holifield, Susan Schuffler, and Jane Treppa, for their dedication and creativity. Each Sunday, our preschoolers enjoyed a Bible story and a song, and always enjoyed the special coloring page that went with each lesson. We've all grown in different ways this year, and for our youngest learners, the lessons and stories of Jesus' love allowed their faith to grow and blossom in their hearts and minds.

VIRTUAL KIDS CONNECT

We had a great time with Kids Connect this year! Even though we had to meet online, we were able to do lots of really fun projects, experiments, and crafts! Highlights of the year included making rainbow rain with food coloring and shaving cream, building a wire bead sculpture, mixing watercolors to make our own color charts, and creating marshmallow geometry. Moving a program that thrives in person to an online platform takes a little advance planning and a lot of flexibility, but it was all worth it! Wednesday evenings were a highlight because we got to connect with each other, encourage each other, and have fun together – just like if we in the same room!

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Although we are all looking forward a summer that hopefully resembles a more "normal" summer, our summer programming for children and families reflects the unknowns that have turned our lives upside down for the past year. We are thrilled to offer Vacation Bible School and MissionFactory, but both programs will look a little different this year.

- **Family Vacation Bible School** VBS will be a family event this year, offered outdoors in our west parking lot from Tuesday, June 22 – Thursday, June 24. Dinner will be available beginning at 6:00 pm, with VBS programming beginning at 6:30 pm. Families of preschoolers – 4th graders will participate in each evening's activities together. Favorite VBS features such as upbeat music, Bible stories, games and craft/mission projects will help us explore our faith as we enjoy time together in the evening light. There will be a registration fee of \$10/family.



- **MissionFactory** Incoming 5th and 6th graders will enjoy a week of fun, fellowship, and mission as they come together for MissionFactory. We will meet indoors, in person, following all current safety guidelines from Monday, June 21-Friday, June 25, from 8:45 am – 12:00 pm. This year's group will be limited to 40 participants, with priority registration for church members. We are looking forward to connecting with other Presbyterian churches through letter writing, front lawn visits to senior church members, preparing lunches for first responders and other community agencies, and recognizing pandemic heroes, among other activities. Registration for MissionFactory will be \$25/child. If anyone has questions about Vacation Bible School or MissionFactory they are encouraged to contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresab.org.



- **Summer Sunday School** The Loaves & Fishes Garden will again be the focus of our Summer Sunday School program. Kids will have the opportunity to plant, tend, weed, and harvest throughout the summer months. Summer Sunday School is open to preschoolers (3- and 4-year-olds) – 5th graders. We will meet at the garden, located in the west parking lot, at 10:00 am on June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, and August 22. All current COVID safety protocols will be followed. In previous years, we have served a snack at the end of our time together. We will make a decision on snacks based on guidelines issued closer to June.

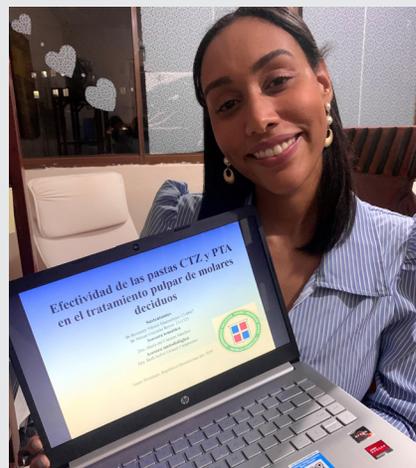


For more information about Summer Sunday School, please contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresab.org.



Dental School Graduate in the DR!

For many years, a group from First Pres traveled to the Dominican Republic to work, foster relationships, and financially support the education of many young people. Rosmary Vilorio, a young woman that First Pres began to sponsor in college in 2013 or 2014, will graduate from dental school in the Dominican Republic in April. She wants to go back to school and specialize in pediatric dental. We are so proud of her and thankful for all of the support that the members and friends of First Pres has given to this community in the DR for so many years. 🙏



Thank you very much, I thank God for you and for your help with me, thank you for helping me fulfill my dreams, thank you for believing in me. God bless you and take care of you always. - Rosmary Vilorio

Flowers For Worship

Spring is a special time for flowers. The arrangements donated by so many members have added to the services we all watch and enjoy each week and give a touch of beauty. The Presbyterian Women's Flower Committee is accepting donations for flowers so we can continue to enjoy a little beauty as we worship. The suggested donation is \$25.

See below for two ways to donate. If giving online, when prompted to select a fund, select "*Sunday Flowers PW*" from the drop down. **Important: In the "Optional Memo" line both online or on a personal check, please add date requested and details of dedication.** Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please contact Sue Henderson at suhenco@comcast.net or 847-804-1682. 



Backpack Drive

We are proud to say that this June 15 is the graduation of the first class from the Christopher House K-8 School. Christopher House has been working hard through a very challenging year to be in contact with all its scholars personally, virtually, and now, in person. We are asking your monetary support of the Presbyterian Women CHRISTOPHER HOUSE BACKPACK FUND, during the month of June, to ensure each scholar will have the backpack and supplies needed for the new school year!! We are so grateful for all your generous and loyal support in the past. The suggested donation is \$20, but all donations are welcome! See donation instructions on this page, and choose PW CHRISTOPHER HOUSE as the fund, or write it in the memo line of your check. Each Christopher House scholar appreciates your support. *It makes such a big difference!*



How to Give Online or by Check

For all of the programs on this page and many others, you can give either online or by check.

To Donate Online
– on the church's website:

1. Go to www.firstpresab.org.
2. Click on CONTRIBUTE at the top, then GIVE
3. Click on the blue Give Now button.
4. Enter the amount, select the fund, type an optional Memo and enter your email address.
5. If you're not logged in, it will ask you to log in, or continue as a guest. If you log in, your payment info will be saved to make it easier to give next time.
6. After you have entered your giving details and payment information, click on Give to initiate your contribution.
7. Log off the system when complete.

To Donate by Check – send a check to the Church Office made out to FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH and write the name of the fund to which you are donating in the memo.

Mail your check to:

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights,
302 North Dunton Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60004 



Thank You!

Thank you from John McFayden

Hi, Judy. Following up to express my thanks to the kind folks at First Presbyterian for their prayers and cards of encouragement as I continue immunotherapy. There are demanding days, but we keep our eyes hopefully set on the long-term goal of getting this pesky cancer under control. We have felt buoyed by the care of good friends in Arlington Heights. Please share with them our love and appreciation.

Faithfully, John McFayden

A Note Of Thanks

This is a heartfelt note of thanks to Mary Fino for helping Presbyterian Women this year, as a group, continue to communicate during this difficult time of the pandemic and by scheduling Zoom meetings to keep us all connected. Because of these efforts to carefully pass on information and invites for all to join our programs through the Chimes and Weekly Highlights, you have been a lifeline to all of us! We thank you so much for your help through this difficult year!!

With our thanks, Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings

Morning Circles 1, 2, 3

The flowers of spring are popping up and are a reminder for you to join Presbyterian Women Circles 1, 2, and 3 on Zoom to find out what is new. Join us for our last discussion and study from *Into the Light* on May 12 at 9:00 am. Our last lesson, Lesson 9, is "The End of Lament". Our breakout groups will give us the chance to have small group discussions and visits after Pastor Judy leads us in new ideas to consider. We will also be having the installation of new coordinating team officers. Join in this fellowship time and send a reservation before May 10 to Gladys Holtz at gladysholtz@comcast.net so she can send you a Zoom link!



Evening Circle 7

Circle 7, our evening Circle, will be meeting at 7:00 pm (note the change in time) on Tuesday, May 18, and will continue with the discussion of Anne Lamott's book, *Almost Everything, Notes on Hope*, via Zoom. Join a lovely spring evening for fun and fellowship right from your home and find out the latest news with our last discussion of the year! Also, look for news of our last Gathering, Springing Into Life, with new ideas for your garden on May 19 at 10:00 am. 📍

Calendar

- May 12, 9:00 am **Book Discussion: Into the Light Morning Circles 1, 2 & 3**
- May 18, 7:00 pm **Book Discussion: Almost Everything, Notes On Hope by Anne Lamott Evening Circle 7**
- May 19, 10:00 am **Gathering - Springing Into Life**

Springing Into Life

Join the Presbyterian Women for their May Gathering and take a virtual tour of the gardens of First Pres and meet the gardeners that keep our gardens so beautiful year-round. Join Master Gardener, Marty Kraybill, as she takes us on the tour and teaches

us how we can create our own big and small pots to look colorful and beautiful. Please join us on Wednesday, May 19, at 10:00 am for the last PW

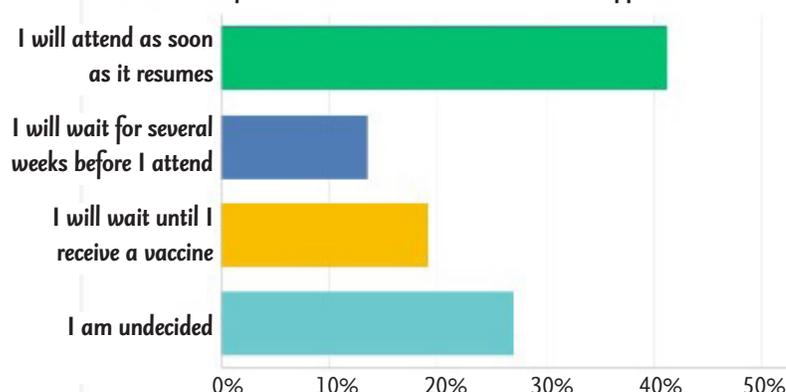


Gathering program and more! Please send your reservation to Betty Launer, blauner2@comcast.net, by May 16 to receive the Zoom link. 📍

In-Person Worship Update

At the April Session meeting, the Session gave the Worship, Music, and Sacraments Committee the ability to establish when our first in-person, inside worship opportunity will be. We are still taking vaccine rates, as well as IDPH guidelines, into consideration. We hope for an indoor opening somewhere between May 16 and June 6. In our recent survey, not quite half of our respondents indicated that they were ready for in-person worship.

Q: When the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights gives the okay to allow in-person worship with a requirement for wearing face masks, but no restrictions of the number in attendance, how likely are you to attend? **Answered 266 Skipped 1**



The CHIMES

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The Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Our Pentecost Offering is dedicated to the youth ministry here at First Presbyterian Church.

PENTECOST SUNDAY IS MAY 23, 2021

Pentecost is considered to be the birthday of the Christian Church. Our youth ministry focus includes the Vacation Bible School with its MissionFactory for (pre-school through 4th grade).

Nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come as we put into action our promise given to children at the time of baptism to educate them in our faith to follow Jesus.

Celebrate our Children's ministry that begin with pre-school ages and continues through High School.

Contribute on May 23, with the special envelope in your offering envelope packet, by check to the church with Pentecost listed in the memo line, or contribute online through the church website.

Just as we celebrate our personal birthday, let us celebrate with the Church. - Thank you 🙏

We are praying for these
and many other members
in our congregation.

SYMPATHY

Please join in extending sympathy to:

The Remian family, on the death of
Art Remian

Lois Hartung, Judy Hockenberry,
and families, on the death of
Don Hartung

Carrie Costello and family, on the
death of *Sally Costello*

Susan Carroll and family, on the
death of her brother, James L. Wahle

Jeff Treppa and family, on the death
of his mother, Ann Marie Treppa

